

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 9 are amended. Claims 1-18, as amended, remain in the application. No new matter is added by the amendments to the claims.

In the Final Office Action dated January 4, 2005, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner stated that the limitation recites "an actuator arranged on said at least one swivel arm spaced from and being connected to actuate said gripper" (claims 1 and 9, line 8) and is unclear and confusing because it is not known how the actuator being "spaced from" when it is physical arranged on the at least one swivel arm. According to the Examiner it appears that the actuator is connected to the swivel arm and is being spaced from the gripper (refer Fig. 2).

Applicant amended Claims 1 and 9 to clarify that the actuator is arranged on the swivel-arm, is spaced from the gripper and is connected to actuate the gripper. Applicant believes that these amendments overcome the rejection.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2 and 7-11, as understood, under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mink (4,678,393). The Examiner rejected Claims 6 and 15, as understood, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mink in view of Tega et al (4,733,457).

In response to Applicant's arguments in the previous Amendment, the Examiner stated:

Applicant argues that Mink reference does not teach the swivel arm (see page 6 of the "Remarks". The Examiner disagrees, because the Mink reference discloses a link 19, which is being pivoted by pin 33 (see col. 3, line 26) therefore the reference 19 of Mink is met the claimed limitation swivel arm as claimed by the present invention claims. Further, the term: "swivel" as defined by the Heritage ® Dictionary, 3rd Edition copyright © 1992 as "a link", "pivot" therefore the reference 19 of Mink also readable as the swivel arm of the present invention claims.

The dictionary definition of "swivel" cited by the Examiner is not applicable. It is the definition for the word "swivel" used as a noun. Claims 1 and 9 define a swivel-arm wherein the verb meaning of the word "swivel" is used to identify the turning, rotating or pivoting action of the arm. See the following definitions from the American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition and the MSN Encarta- Dictionary. This is similar to the term

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"swivel chair" wherein the word "swivel" is used to identify an operational feature of the chair. See the following definitions of "swivel chair" from the same reference sources.

The Mink patent shows arms with bearing portions 17, 18 supporting linearly movable guide rods 19, 21. The guide rods have affixed at forward ends gripping devices 22, 25 being actuated by pneumatic cylinders 24, 27. The pneumatic cylinders 24, 27 are mounted on the gripping devices 22, 25 at the forward ends of the guide rods 19, 21.

The Mink patent does not show or suggest the claimed cable processing device as defined by amended Claims 1 and 9. The "swivel arm" 19 identified by the Examiner is a guide rod that does not swivel and only moves linearly. The gripper 22 and the pneumatic cylinder 24 are mounted together at the forward end of the guide rod 19 and are not spaced apart as defined by Claims 1 and 9.

The Mink guide rods 19 are mounted on the end portion 17 of one of the arms of the supporting member 15. A block 28 is affixed to the guide rods 19. A pin 33 attached to a drive member 32 is received in a groove of the block 28. The pin 33 slides in the groove as the drive member 32 rotates thereby causing the block 28 and the guide rods 19 to reciprocate linearly. Neither the guide rods 19 nor the pin 33 "pivot" or "swivel".

The Tega et al. patent shows a mechanical hand for a robot having a piston 172 acting on a column 290 to actuate a tool 140 having opposed jaws 300. The piston and the column are both located in main block 142 that attaches the tool 140 to a head 128 that is mounted on the end of a robot arm. There is no swivel-arm shown in Fig. 1. Even if the main block 142 of Tega et al. were substituted for the pneumatic cylinder 24 of Mink, such a combination would still lack an actuator and a gripper mounted on a swing arm with the actuator spaced from the gripper as defined by Claims 1 and 9.

In summary, the cited references either alone or in combination do not show or suggest the claimed cable-processing device which includes:

- a swivel-arm having one end adapted to be mounted for swiveling movement and linear movement;
- a gripper mounted on an opposite end of the swivel-arm; and
- an actuator arranged on the swivel-arm spaced from the gripper.

Applicant appreciates the allowance of Claims 16-18.

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In view of the amendments to the claims and the above arguments, Applicant believes that the claims of record now define patentable subject matter over the art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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